

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1           1. (currently amended) A multipurpose surgical  
2    sharps handling device ~~comprising in combination at least~~  
3    ~~two of the following structures with opposed walls~~  
4    configured to be held conveniently in the fingertips of  
5    one hand and forming a boundary for surgical articles  
6    carried by said device, and including:
  - 7           a system for temporarily holding a scalpel for no-  
8    hands passing of the scalpel between a nurse and a  
9    surgeon,  
10          a gapped magnetic zone for no-hands passing of a  
11    suture needle with a notch between portions of the  
12    magnetic zone for access in the notch by a needle holder,  
13          a closable used interoperative sharps storage  
14    container, and  
15          a suture pack carrier.

2. (cancelled).

- 1           3. (currently amended) A device for no-hands  
2    transfer of a scalpel comprising an injection-molded  
3    thermoplastic body including a supporting base,

4 a scalpel blade receiver adjacent one end of the  
5 base,  
6 a scalpel handle grip adjacent an end of the base  
7 opposite said one end, the receiver being arranged to  
8 limit freedom of movement of the blade laterally while  
9 allowing pitch movement of a handle of a scalpel, the  
10 handle grip being arranged to receive a mid-section of  
11 the handle of a scalpel in a pitch movement towards the  
12 base while its blade is received in the receiver, the  
13 grip being arranged to resist longitudinal reverse  
14 movement of the scalpel blade out of the receiver and the  
15 grip and pitch movement out of the grip with a friction  
16 force sufficient to reliably hold a scalpel handle in a  
17 gripped position while the device is handled by a  
18 surgical nurse to present the scalpel handle in a  
19 vertical or near vertical position for grasping by a  
20 surgeon with a large portion of the scalpel handle on a  
21 side of the grip remote from the blade receiver in a  
22 cantilever condition extending beyond said device such  
23 that it is free of physical interference from adjacent  
24 parts of the device.

1 4. (original) A device as set forth in claim 3,  
2 wherein the body includes a finger-grip area to enable  
3 the nurse to grasp the device.

1 5. (currently amended) A device as set forth in  
2 claim 4, including laterally extending finger guards on

3 opposite sides of an area between the grip and the  
4 receiver and outward of said finger grip area.

1 6. (currently amended) A device as set forth in  
2 claim 5, wherein the finger guards extend in a plane  
3 above the a location of to be occupied by a scalpel in  
4 the receiver and in the grip.

1 7. (currently amended) A device as set forth in  
2 claim 6, wherein the finger guards have laterally outward  
3 portions remote from said area that extend downward from  
4 said plane.

1 8. (currently amended) A device as set forth in  
2 claim 4, wherein the finger grip area has a wasp waist  
3 configuration that has a narrow zone between wider zones  
4 to facilitate fingertip grasping of the device.

1 9. (original) A device as set forth in claim 3,  
2 wherein the blade receiver includes a narrow throat area  
3 to laterally confine the scalpel blade.

1 10. (currently amended) A device ~~as set forth in~~  
2 ~~claim 9,~~ wherein for no-hands transfer of a scalpel  
3 comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic body  
4 including a supporting base.  
5 a scalpel blade receiver adjacent one end of the  
6 base.

7        a scalpel handle grip adjacent an end of the base  
8        opposite said one end, the receiver being arranged to  
9        limit freedom of movement of the blade laterally while  
10       allowing pitch movement of a handle of a scalpel, the  
11       handle grip being arranged to receive a mid-section of  
12       the handle of a scalpel in a pitch movement towards the  
13       base while its blade is received in the receiver, the  
14       grip being arranged to resist longitudinal reverse  
15       movement of the scalpel blade out of the receiver and the  
16       grip and pitch movement out of the grip with a friction  
17       force sufficient to reliably hold a scalpel handle in a  
18       gripped position while the device is handled by a  
19       surgical nurse to present the scalpel handle in a  
20       vertical or near vertical position for grasping by a  
21       surgeon.

22       the blade receiver including a narrow throat area to  
23       laterally confine the scalpel blade,

24       the throat area includes including a thin membrane  
25       that is adapted to be cut by the scalpel blade.

1       11. (currently amended) A device ~~as set forth in~~  
2       ~~claim 3,~~ wherein for no-hands transfer of a scalpel  
3       comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic body  
4       including a supporting base,

5       a scalpel blade receiver adjacent one end of the  
6       base,

7       a scalpel handle grip adjacent an end of the base  
8       opposite said one end, the receiver being arranged to

9 limit freedom of movement of the blade laterally while  
10 allowing pitch movement of a handle of a scalpel, the  
11 handle grip being arranged to receive a mid-section of  
12 the handle of a scalpel in a pitch movement towards the  
13 base while its blade is received in the receiver, the  
14 grip being arranged to resist longitudinal reverse  
15 movement of the scalpel blade out of the receiver and the  
16 grip and pitch movement out of the grip with a friction  
17 force sufficient to reliably hold a scalpel handle in a  
18 gripped position while the device is handled by a  
19 surgical nurse to present the scalpel handle in a  
20 vertical or near vertical position for grasping by a  
21 surgeon.

22       the base ~~includes~~ including a needle presentation  
23 zone including an open slot and magnetic sheet material  
24 on opposite sides of said slot, said slot being adapted  
25 to receive the jaws of a needle holder.

1       12. (original) A device as set forth in claim 3,  
2 including a restraining portion that prevents a scalpel  
3 blade from being released in an upward direction.

1       13. (currently amended) A multi-purpose surgical  
2 sharps handling device comprising an injection-molded  
3 thermoplastic body including a scalpel holder and a  
4 closable sharps receiving container, the scalpel holder  
5 having a blade receiving zone and a handle gripping area  
6 that cooperate to support a scalpel in a cantilever

7 arrangement whereby a substantial portion of the length  
8 of the scalpel handle is free of obstruction by the  
9 device in a space surrounding said substantial portion  
10 and it is thereby readily grasped, the receiving chamber  
11 container being adjacent said blade receiving zone and  
12 remote from said gripping area.

1 14. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as  
2 set forth in claim 13, wherein said receiving container  
3 has a hinged cover and a releasable latch to maintain  
4 said cover closed on said container.

1 15. (currently amended) A multi-purpose surgical  
2 sharps handling device ~~as set forth in claim 13, wherein~~  
3 comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic body  
4 including a scalpel holder and a closable sharps  
5 receiving container, the scalpel holder having a blade  
6 receiving zone and a handle gripping area that cooperate  
7 to support a scalpel in a cantilever arrangement whereby  
8 a substantial portion of the length of the scalpel handle  
9 is free of obstruction and it is thereby readily grasped,  
10 the receiving container being adjacent said blade  
11 receiving zone and remote from said gripping area,

12 said receiving container ~~comprises~~ comprising a  
13 shallow box including a bottom wall, said bottom wall  
14 having a magnetic sheet for holding sharps.

1           16. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as  
2 set forth in claim 15, wherein said magnetic sheet  
3 includes a grid to facilitate counting of sharps received  
4 in said container.

1           17. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as  
2 set forth in claim 16, including a cover for said  
3 container, said cover being sufficiently transparent to  
4 permit counting of sharps in said container when said  
5 cover is closed.

1           18. (currently amended) A surgical sharps handling  
2 device as set forth in claim 13, including finger guards  
3 on opposite sides of said scalpel holder arranged to  
4 protect the fingers of a nurse when holding the device in  
5 the fingertips of one hand for presentation of the  
6 scalpel to a surgeon.

1           19. (currently amended) A surgical sharps handling  
2 device as set forth in claim 13, wherein said scalpel  
3 holder has a wasp waist area with a narrow zone between  
4 wider zones to obtain with one hand a positive finger  
5 hold of the device.

1           20. (currently amended) A multi-purpose surgical  
2 sharps handling device ~~as set forth in claim 13, wherein~~  
3 comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic body  
4 including a scalpel holder and a closable sharps

5 receiving container, the scalpel holder having a blade  
6 receiving zone and a handle gripping area that cooperate  
7 to support a scalpel in a cantilever arrangement whereby  
8 a substantial portion of the length of the scalpel handle  
9 is free of obstruction and it is thereby readily grasped,  
10 the receiving container being adjacent said blade  
11 receiving zone and remote from said gripping area,  
12       said scalpel holder ~~includes~~ including a magnetic  
13 needle holding area having an open slot, the magnetic  
14 holding area ~~straddling said slot~~ having magnetic  
15 material on each lateral side of said slot.

21. (cancelled).

22. (cancelled).

1       23. (currently amended) A multi-purpose surgical  
2 sharps handling device ~~as set forth in claim 22, wherein~~  
3 comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic body  
4 including a scalpel holder and a closable sharps  
5 receiving container, the scalpel holder having a blade  
6 receiving zone and a handle gripping area that cooperate  
7 to support a scalpel in a cantilever arrangement whereby  
8 a substantial portion of the length of the scalpel handle  
9 is free of obstruction and it is thereby readily grasped,  
10 the receiving container being adjacent said blade  
11 receiving zone and remote from said gripping area,



12        the scalpel holder and sharps receiving container  
13   being accessible from a common face of the device,  
14        a suture pack mounting zone on a face of said device  
15   opposite said common face,  
16        said mounting zone ~~is being~~ partially formed by legs  
17   on said opposite face.

1        24. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as  
2   set forth in claim 23, wherein said legs include  
3   pressure-sensitive adhesive for adhering said device to a  
4   supporting surface.

1        25. (currently amended) A multi-purpose surgical  
2   sharps handling device ~~as set forth in claim 13,~~  
3   ~~including comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic~~  
4   body including a scalpel holder and a closable sharps  
5   receiving container, the scalpel holder having a blade  
6   receiving zone and a handle gripping area that cooperate  
7   to support a scalpel in a cantilever arrangement whereby  
8   a substantial portion of the length of the scalpel handle  
9   is free of obstruction and it is thereby readily grasped,  
10   the receiving container being adjacent said blade  
11   receiving zone and remote from said gripping area, and  
12        a magnetic sheet disposed in said container to  
13   magnetically retain sharps in said container.

1        26. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as  
2   set forth in claim 25, including a grid visually dividing

3 the magnetic sheet in the container to facilitate  
4 counting of sharps deposited therein.

1 27. (original) A device as set forth in claim 9,  
2 including a V-shaped notch for receiving and guiding the  
3 scalpel blade.

1 28. (original) A device as set forth in claim 13,  
2 wherein a portion of said body has an exterior non-slip  
3 surface.